

Action. Filed herewith is a Request for Extension of Time Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136a.

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application, claims 10-28 having been added in this amendment. Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(a) and the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting.

Reconsideration of the application and present claims are respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 1-9 -- 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

The rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as anticipated by Wang (U.S. Patent No. 5,334,976, "the Wang patent") is respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to positively recite that the keys have a keystroke travel range of at least 0.9 millimeters. Support for this amendment may be found on page 10, lines 23-26 of the present Specification, wherein it is stated that an input apparatus of the present invention may have a keystroke travel range of 60% of the ANSI standard of at least 1.5 mm.

In contrast to the presently claimed input apparatus, the keyboard disclosed in the Wang patent is a membrane keyboard and therefore does not have a meaningful keystroke travel range. Applicant has obtained the keyboard manufactured and sold by Wang Laboratories, Inc. which bears the legend "U.S. Patent No. 5,334,976", and is the keyboard taught by the Wang patent. As clearly taught in Col. 5 lines 29 - Col. 6 line 49, and Figures 2 and 3 of the Wang patent, the keyboard taught by the Wang patent and sold by Wang is a membrane style keyboard. In particular, the keyboard taught and sold by Wang consists of "a cover membrane sheet 62, has imprinted thereon the key layout 10 and is held in place by a peripheral frame 64 over a switch circuit board 66 which is mounted to an enclosure case 63". Wang Patent, Col. 5, lines 46-49.

The keys on a membrane style keyboard have limited, if any, keystroke travel range. Thus, the keys on the keyboard taught and sold by Wang, do not have a keystroke travel range of at least 0.9 millimeters which is now specified in the present claims. Moreover, the Wang patent

specifically teaches the advantages of a membrane style keyboard, utilizing touch panel technology, over keyboards with "so-called full travel switches". Wang Patent, Col. 5, lines 41-45. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion in the Wang patent, nor any motivation in view of the Wang patent for one of ordinary skill in the art, to construct a keyboard which utilizes alphanumeric keys having a keystroke travel range of at least 0.9 millimeters.

For these reasons, the present claims are clearly not anticipated by the Wang patent which fails to disclose or suggest the use of keys a keystroke travel range of at least 0.9 millimeters and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102a.

Claims 1 to 9 -- Obviousness-type Double Patenting

The rejection of claims 1-9 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Upon receiving notification of allowable claims, Applicant will submit a terminal disclaimer to overcome this rejection.

New Claims 10-28

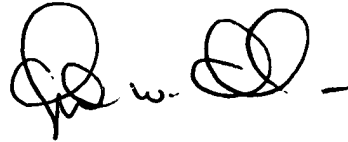
Applicant has added new claims 10-26 to more particularly claim features of his invention. Support for new claims 10-28 may be found in the original claims 1-9, throughout the Specification, for example on pages 5-7, and in Figures 1 and 2.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10-28 are patentable over the prior art of record and, in particular, may be distinguished from the Wang patent for reasons similar to those set forth above.

Conclusion

A favorable Office Action is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (910) 607-7315 to discuss any matter relating to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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